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blubber, in a hut made of sod, into which she has to crawl on hands and feet through a tunnel. Though not quite in harmony with the highest ethical ideas, this mode of displacement of one race by another is perhaps the gentlest. Nature here seems to reverse the law by which

> "So careful of the type she seems,
> So careless of the single life."

One who has acquired even a slight knowledge of the Eskimo language naturally pounces with avidity on the geographic and other nomenclature in works dealing with Eskimo-inhabited lands. It is to be regretted that in Labrador, as in Greenland, the Eskimos seem to have a mania for adopting European names, which fit them about as well as European clothes. Such names as Tauyungina, Tautyengwa, Igia, Angutiwdluahsu, Nasautiwdluahsu, Niakautya, Masauna, Koyaugito, Inuito, for men, Adlekasingwa, Inedlungwa, Akatengwa, Awiengorna, Mahsangwa, for women, among the Smith Sound natives, seem infinitely more fitting than such borrowed labels as Carl Dalager, Christian Broberg, Hans Matthiessen, among the Danish Greenlanders. In Labrador, as in Danish Greenland, all the above names would doubtless show a final k, which in the Smith Sound region seems to have practically vanished, while final t has been softened to n, both changes being decidedly in the interest of euphony. The specimens of Eskimo words given by Hantzsch are an additional proof of the remarkable uniformity of the language throughout its vast extent, suggesting that the expansion of the race may be of comparatively recent date.

DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH POLE.

A cable despatch from Dr. Frederick A. Cook, dated "Lerwick, Shetland Islands, Sept. 1," and printed in the *New York Herald,* of that date, announced that he had succeeded in reaching the North Pole on April 21, 1908. This was followed by despatches received from Commander R. E. Peary, U. S. N., dated at Indian Harbor, Lab., *via* Cape Ray, N. F., Sept. 6, announcing also that he had reached the North Pole on April 6, 1909. As Peary's report is much more complete than that received from Dr. Cook, a summary of this great culmination of Peary's Arctic work will first be presented here. Detailed accounts of the reports of both explorers will be reserved for a later occasion.

Peary's steamer *Roosevelt* left New York on July 6, 1908, and

arrived at Cape Sheridan, on the northeast coast of Grant Land, on Sept. 1. The party wintered there, transferring many loads of supplies as far west as Cape Columbia, hunting parties, meanwhile, bringing in a large amount of fresh meat (musk oxen, bear and deer), and the scientific staff took tidal and meteorological observations from Cape Bryant on the Greenland coast to Cape Columbia on the northern shore of Grant Land.

On Feb. 15, this year, twenty days before sunrise, Peary's sledge party for the North Pole left Cape Sheridan in five detachments and travelled west along the coast to Cape Columbia, the starting point for the northern journey. On March 1, they set out on the sea ice for the north and reached the Pole in 36 days. On the whole, the sledging conditions were not very unfavourable, though Peary was delayed about 14 days by water leads, leaving a little more than three weeks for the actual sledging work. The pace was remarkably rapid, and the journey from the mainland to the Pole was made at the average rate of a little less than twelve miles a day, including the long detentions. The average rate of the Italian expedition (the Duke of the Abruzzi) was only about 7 miles a day.

As the explorer advanced, the supporting parties, one after another, were turned back, and for the final dash of 140 miles there were left only 5 men (Peary, Matt Hansen, the negro, and 3 Eskimos), 40 dogs and 5 sledges. Sea ice covers the entire area around the Pole. Thirty hours were spent in making observations and taking a sounding, at the Pole and in its neighbourhood. The minimum temperature during this time was −30° and the maximum −12°. For 20 hours, the sky was cloudless.

Forced marches were made on the return by reducing the hours of sleep and otherwise saving time, as, for example, by occupying, at the halts, igloos built on the northern journey. The distance from the Pole back to Cape Columbia was covered in the wonderfully quick time of 16 days.

The three soundings which Peary took, on his northern trip, were full of significance, though it would have been desirable, had circumstances permitted, to have increased the number. About 50 miles north of Cape Columbia, a sounding showed a depth of 110 fathoms or 660 feet. His second sounding a little south of the 85th parallel, gave a depth of 325 fathoms or 1,950 feet. From the data the explorer gives, this place appears to be some 80 or 90 miles north of the coast of Grant Land. He had then passed beyond the continental shelf and the ice upon which he stood was over oceanic depths. His last sounding was within 5 miles of the Pole, where

all his line, 1,500 fathoms, was paid out without touching bottom, showing that the depth there was over 9,000 feet.

All known Arctic lands rise from comparatively shallow waters, and the inference will doubtless be drawn that there is no land between Grant Land and the Pole, if the constantly increasing depths indicated by Peary's soundings persist.

The explorer's equipment, in all respects, seems to have reached the nearest approach to perfection that has yet been attained and the brilliant success that has rewarded his efforts is now applauded by all the world. He seems also to have been favoured by unusually excellent natural conditions for his final attempt on the Pole.

Dr. Cook went north, in the summer of 1907, ostensibly on a hunting cruise, with Mr. J. R. Bradley, in Greenland waters. According to a signed statement by Mr. Bradley, his vessel was well equipped with supplies for an attempt to reach the Pole. Dr. Cook was landed in the Smith Sound region and spent the winter of 1907-8 at Annotok, a little north of Peary's old base at Etah. At sunrise in 1898, he started west, over Grinnell Land, to try a new route to the Pole over the waters west of that land leading to the Arctic Ocean. He had with him 10 Eskimos, 103 dogs and 11 heavily laden sledges. On the way to the west coast he secured a large amount of game. Taking to the sea ice at Land's End, a little north of Nansen Sound, he sent back his last supporting party after three days and pushed on with his two best Eskimos and 26 dogs. He was then 460 miles from the Pole and the date was March 21.

On March 30, in latitude 84° 47′ and 86° 36′ W. Long., he says he saw new land to the west, but had no time to explore it. The latitude mentioned is apparently about the same as that in which Peary determined approximately the edge of the continental shelf. Further north he found no evidences of any kind of life. He had considerable difficulty in curcumventing pressure ridges, and the eastern drift of the ice gave him much anxiety, but beyond the 86th parallel the travelling was much better. From the 87th to the 88th parallels he was surprised to find indications of land ice (?).

Approaching the Pole, astronomical observations were daily made to fix the position of the advancing stages, and the Pole was reached on April 21, 1908. He remained there two days and saw nothing but ice and no sign of life. From his third day on the ice, he had made the journey to the Pole at the remarkably rapid rate of a little over 15 miles a day. He was not nearly so much delayed as Peary was in the following season, by long detentions at water leads.

On the much slower return journey, he encountered a great deal

of open water and a rapid easterly drift of the ice. His difficulties were augumented by the near exhaustion of his food. The lives of the three men were saved, however, in Crown Prince Gustav Sea, a little north of Axel Heiberg Land, by the killing of a few bears. He pushed as rapidly as possible down toward Lancaster Sound in the hope of reaching a Dundee whaler, but as he found he could not get so far south, he crossed into Jones Sound, early in July. He passed the winter at Cape Sparbo, and as his ammunition was exhausted, game was obtained by bow and arrow, the lance, the knife and fishing line. Remaining in an underground refuge they had prepared till sunrise, this year, the three men started for the Greenland shores and reached Cook's winter camp at Annotok on April 15. Thence Cook moved far south to the Danish settlements, reaching Upernivik on May 21 last, and later he was able to take a Danish Government vessel for Copenhagen, where he arrived in September.

Doubts have been expressed, in some quarters, as to the authenticity of Dr. Cook's brief narrative, while, at the same time, his claims seem to have been accepted with implicit confidence in Denmark, where he has been received with great enthusiasm and the highest honours. It is hoped that recriminations, which can settle nothing, will cease, and that matters in dispute will be left to the adjudication of competent experts, who will pass upon the merits of the recorded observations and other testimony. It is understood that the Coast and Geodetic Survey has offered to act in this capacity.

The attainment of the North Pole, after the long quest of centuries, has naturally stimulated the most profound interest throughout the world. The effect upon Arctic exploration will doubtless be, it is gratifying to say, to center enterprise in that field upon more scientific investigations.

GEOGRAPHICAL RECORD.

NORTH AMERICA.

SOIL SURVEY OF WISCONSIN.—The Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and the College of Agriculture of the University of Wisconsin are soon to begin a co-operative soil survey of the state assisted by the Bureau of Soils of the United States Department of Agriculture. The last session of the legislature authorized the making of a soil survey and a soil map "to ascertain the character and fertility of the developed and undeveloped soils of the state, the extent and practicability of drainage of soil and wet lands and the means for conserving and increasing the fertility of the soils." The sum of $10,000 was appropriated annually for this work for the next two years.